

CLAIMES

What is claimed is:

1. A message-address management program to cause a computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, wherein the program causes the computer to perform:

absence-response-information accepting processing to receive, when a mail address of a certain member of a mail group changes, absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member;

notice-receiver extraction processing to extract a mail address of another member of the mail group from a previously provided mail list for the mail group;

notice-destination determination processing to specify a server to which the absence response information is to be provided, on the basis of the extracted mail address; and

absence-response-information distribution processing to distribute the absence response information to the specified server.

2. A message-address management program according to claim 1, wherein the absence response information received by the absence-response-information accepting processing contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response information.

3. A message-address management program according to claim 1, wherein the absence-response-information distribution processing distributes simultaneously a plurality of pieces of the absence response information to be

distributed to the same server, to which the absence response information is to be provided.

4. A message-address management program to cause a computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, wherein the program causes the computer to perform:

absence-response-information receiving processing to receive from a server absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of a certain member of a mail group;

absence-response-information management processing to store and manage the absence response information;

address judgment processing to judge whether an address of an accepted transmission mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information; and

transfer processing to transmit the mail after replacement of the address with the new address, when the address of the mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information.

5. A message-address management program according to claim 4, wherein the program further causes the computer to perform transfer notification processing, when the mail has been transferred to the new address by the transfer processing, in order to notify an administrator of the message exchange system or a requestor of the mail transmission that the mail has been transferred to the new address.

6. A message-address management program to cause a

computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, wherein the program causes the computer to perform:

absence-response-information creation processing to accept, when a mail address changes, an input data of absence response information including at least an old address and a new address corresponding to the change; and

absence-response-information provision processing to transmit the input data of the absence response information to the server.

7. A program recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, wherein the program causes the computer to perform:

absence-response-information accepting processing, when a mail address of a certain member of a mail group changes, so as to receive absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member;

notice-receiver extraction processing to extract a mail address of another member of the mail group from a previously provided mail list for the mail group;

notice-destination determination processing to specify a server to which the absence response information is to be provided, on the basis of the extracted mail address; and

absence-response-information distribution processing to distribute the absence response information to the specified server.

8. A program recording medium according to claim 7,

wherein the absence response information received by the absence-response-information accepting processing contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response information.

9. A program recording medium according to claim 7, wherein the absence-response-information distribution processing distributes simultaneously a plurality of pieces of the absence response information to be distributed to the same server, to which the absence response information is to be provided.

10. A program recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, wherein the program causing the computer to perform:

absence-response-information receiving processing to receive from a server absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of a certain member of a mail group;

absence-response-information management processing to store and manage the absence response information;

address judgment processing to judge whether an address of an accepted transmission mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information; and

transfer processing to transmit the mail after replacement of the address with the new address, when the address of the mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information.

11. A program recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the program causes the computer to perform transfer notification processing, when the mail has been transferred to the new address by the transfer processing, in order to notify an administrator of the message exchange system or a requestor of the mail transmission that the mail has been transferred to the new address.

12. A program recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to perform message-address management processing in a system capable of exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, wherein the program causes the computer to perform:

absence-response-information creation processing to accept, when a mail address changes, an input data of absence response information including at least an old address and a new address corresponding to the change; and

absence-response-information provision processing to transmit the input data of the absence response information to the server.

13. A message-address management method for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, when a mail address of a certain member of a mail group changes, absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member;

extracting a mail address of another member of the mail group from a previously provided mail list for the mail group;

specifying a server to which the absence response information is to be provided, on the basis of the extracted mail address; and

distributing the absence response information to the specified server.

14. A message-address management method according to claim 13, wherein the absence response information received by the absence-response-information receiving step contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response information.

15. A message-address management method according to claim 13, wherein the absence-response-information distribution step distributes simultaneously a plurality of pieces of the absence response information to be distributed to the same server, to which the absence response information is to be provided.

16. A message-address management method for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a server absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of a certain member of a mail group who uses the server;

storing and managing the absence response information;

judging whether an address of an accepted transmission mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information; and

transmitting the mail after replacement of the address

with the new address, when the address of the mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information.

17. A message-address management method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

sending, when the mail has been transferred to the new address, a message to an administrator of the message exchange system or a requestor of the mail transmission, the message reporting that the mail has been transferred to the new address.

18. A message-address management method for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting, when a mail address changes, an input data of absence response information including at least an old address and a new address corresponding to the change; and

transmitting the input data of the absence response information to the server.

19. A message-address management apparatus for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, the apparatus comprising:

absence-response-information accepting means for receiving, when a mail address of a certain member of a mail group changes, absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of the member;

notice-receiver extraction means for extracting a mail address of another member of the mail group from a previously provided mail list for the mail group;

notice-destination determination means for specifying

a server to which the absence response information is to be provided, on the basis of the extracted mail address; and

absence-response-information distribution means for distributing the absence response information to the specified server.

20. A message-address management apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the absence response information received by the absence-response-information accepting means contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response information.

21. A message-address management apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the absence-response-information distribution means distributes simultaneously a plurality of pieces of the absence response information to be distributed to the same server, to which the absence response information is to be provided.

22. A message-address management apparatus for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, the apparatus comprising:

absence-response-information receiving means for receiving from a server absence response information including at least an old address and a new address of a certain member of a mail group;

absence-response-information management means for storing and managing the absence response information;

address judgment means for judging whether an address of an accepted transmission mail matches the old address



contained in the absence response information; and

transfer means for transmitting the mail after replacement of the address with the new address, when the address of the mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information.

23. A message-address management apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising transfer notification means for sending, when the mail has been transferred to the new address by the transfer means, a message to an administrator of the message exchange system or a requestor of the mail transmission, the message reporting that the mail has been transferred to the new address.

24. A message-address management apparatus for exchanging messages among a plurality of servers, the apparatus comprising:

absence-response-information creating means for accepting, when a mail address changes, an input data of absence response information including at least an old address and a new address corresponding to the change; and

absence-response-information providing means for transmitting the input data of the absence response information to the mail server.